

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 289

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. MICHAUD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Whereas, on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two-and-a-half minutes;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that 191,670 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2005;

Whereas 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas children and young adults are most at risk, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas only 41 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed;

Whereas prevention education programs carried out by rape crisis and women's health centers have the potential to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault in their communities;

Whereas because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all survivors of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas the rate of sexual assaults has decreased by half in the last decade; and

Whereas April is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
3 tives that—

4 (A) National Sexual Assault Awareness
5 and Prevention Month provides a special oppor-
6 tunity to educate the people of the United
7 States about sexual violence and to encourage
8 the prevention of sexual assault, the improved
9 treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution
10 of its perpetrators;

11 (B) it is appropriate to properly acknowl-
12 edge the more than 20,000,000 men and
13 women who have survived sexual assault in the
14 United States and salute the efforts of sur-
15 vivors, volunteers, and professionals who com-
16 bat sexual assault;

17 (C) national and community organizations
18 and private sector supporters should be recog-
19 nized and applauded for their work in pro-
20 moting awareness about sexual assault, pro-
21 viding information and treatment to its sur-
22 vivors, and increasing the number of successful
23 prosecutions of its perpetrators;

1 (D) public safety, law enforcement, and
2 health professionals should be recognized and
3 applauded for their hard work and innovative
4 strategies to increase the percentage of sexual
5 assault cases that result in the prosecution and
6 incarceration of the offenders;

7 (2) the House of Representatives strongly rec-
8 ommends national and community organizations,
9 businesses in the private sector, colleges and univer-
10 sities, and the media to promote, through National
11 Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month,
12 awareness of sexual violence and strategies to de-
13 crease the incidence of sexual assault; and

14 (3) the House of Representatives supports the
15 goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Aware-
16 ness and Prevention Month.

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